

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 11197 01 OF 02 201532Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01

ITC-01 SP-02 ICA-11 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01

STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10

NEA-10 /140 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2346

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 11197

USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD - GROUP B PREPARATIONS FOR 18TH TDB AND  
UNCTAD V

REF: (A) GENEVA 10773, (B) GENEVA 9458, (C) STATE 181672,  
(D) GENEVA 10400

1. SUMMARY: IN GROUP B MEETING OF GENEVA REPS, JULY 19,  
VIEWS WERE EXCHANGED ON THE TYPE OF AGENDA THAT WE SHOULD  
BE SEEKING FOR UNCTAD V, AS WELL AS ON PREPARATIONS FOR  
THE 18TH TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD (AUGUST 29-SEP-  
TEMBER 15) WHICH WILL DEVELOP A PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR  
UNCTAD V. IT WAS AGREED THAT GROUP B SHOULD TRY TO DEVE-  
LOP ITS OWN IDEAS FOR AN AGENDA THAT WILL FOCUS ON A  
LIMITED NUMBER OF TOPICS--RATHER THAN A LONG AGENDA  
COVERING ALL UNCTAD ACTIVITIES WHICH WE UNDERSTAND THE  
SECRETARIAT IS THINKING OF PROPOSING. SECRETARIAT IS EX-  
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 11197 01 OF 02 201532Z

PECTED TO RELEASE ITS PROPOSED AGENDA WITHIN THE NEXT TWO  
WEEKS. IT WAS AGREED THAT GROUP B GENEVA REPS WILL SEEK  
COMMENTS FROM THEIR CAPITALS ON THE SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSED  
AGENDA--WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF DEVELOPING SUBSTITUTE OR  
ADDITIONAL TOPICS FOR GROUP B TO PROPOSE AT THE 18TH TDB.  
IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT GROUP B GENEVA REPS WOULD PLAY AN  
ACTIVE ROLE IN PREPARING FOR UNCTAD V--WORKING IN CON-

JUNCTION WITH EFFORTS IN THE OECD. END SUMMARY.

2. UNCTAD V AGENDA - SEVERAL MISSIONS (INCLUDING OURS) HAVE LEARNED FROM THE SECRETARIAT THAT SYG COREA IS THINKING OF PROPOSING A LONG "TRADITIONAL" AGENDA FOR UNCTAD V, WHICH WOULD CALL FOR A REVIEW OF ALL UNCTAD ACTIVITIES SINCE UNCTAD IV, AS WELL AS EXAMINATION OF CURRENT MAJOR CONCERNS WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF MAKING A MAJOR INPUT INTO DEVELOPING A STRATEGY FOR DD III AND THE 1980 SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNGA. (COREA OUTLINED HIS CURRENT THINKING ON UNCTAD V IN A RECENT SPEECH BEFORE THE ECOSOC, DESCRIBED IN REFTEL A.) GROUP B REPS AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE INSTEAD TO FOCUS THE AGENDA ON A LIMITED NUMBER OF TOPICS. ALTHOUGH NO DELEGATION HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSE PARTICULAR TOPICS OR INITIATIVES, IT WAS AGREED THAT WE SHOULD TRY TO FOCUS UNCTAD V ON TOPICS ON WHICH WE HAVE MADE THE MOST PROGRESS, AND WHICH PROVIDE THE BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR A USEFUL DIALOGUE ON REAL ISSUES IN WORLD DEVELOPMENT.

3. MOST DELEGATIONS ANTICIPATED THAT MONEY AND FINANCE COULD BE A MAJOR TOPIC AT UNCTAD V, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT CLEAR YET TO WHAT EXTENT DIVISION DIRECTOR ARSENIS PLANS TO PUSH SOME OF HIS PROPOSALS, WHICH INCLUDE FINDING WAYS TO GUARANTEE MORE MEDIUM-TERM CREDITS TO MIDDLE INCOME LDCS, WHICH ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR CONCESSIONAL LOANS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 11197 01 OF 02 201532Z

AND LACK ACCESS TO PRIVATE CAPITAL MARKETS. (OTHER ARSENIS IDEAS WERE REPORTED IN REFTEL B.) IN THE TRADE FIELD, HOPE WAS EXPRESSED THAT THE RESULTS OF THE MTN, AND PROGRESS MADE IN THE COMMON FUND NEGOTIATIONS AND MEETINGS ON INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES WOULD PROVIDE US WITH SOMETHING POSITIVE TO REVIEW AND DISCUSS. THE FRENCH SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING TOPICS AT UNCTAD V: (A) INTERDEPENDENCE AS A GENERAL ITEM, WHICH COULD INCLUDE INVESTMENT CLIMATE, ENERGY, AND PROBLEMS OF PROTECTIONISM; AND (B) AID TO LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES - WHICH COULD BE ESTABLISHED AS AN "ABSOLUTE PRIORITY". FRANCE AND THE UK BOTH FELT THAT WE SHOULD TRY TO KEEP THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY CODE, RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES, AND MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT OFF THE UNCTAD V AGENDA SINCE THEY DOUBTED WHETHER SUFFICIENT PROGRESS WILL HAVE BEEN MADE IN ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS TO ENABLE US TO DISCUSS THESE TOPICS POSITIVELY IN MANILA. GROUP B REPS CONCLUDED THAT OUR BEST CHANCE TO INFLUENCE THE UNCTAD V AGENDA WILL BE AT THE 18TH TDB, SINCE IT WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT TO INFLUENCE THE G-77 AFTER THEY DEVELOP THEIR POSITION FOR UNCTAD V AT THEIR FEBRUARY MEETING IN ARUSHA. IT WAS THEREFORE

DECIDED THAT WE WOULD ASK OUR CAPITALS FOR GUIDANCE AND COMMENTS ON THE SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSED AGENDA (WHICH SHOULD BE CIRCULATED SOON), WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOPING A GROUP B POSITION ON THE AGENDA AT THE 18TH TDB.

4. COORDINATION - WHEN CANADA RAISED THE QUESTION OF WHAT ROLE THE OECD SHOULD PLAY IN PRE-CONFERENCE AND PRE-TDB PREPARATIONS, MISSION OFFICER STATED PER REFTEL C THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN COORDINATION ASAP IN THE OECD XCSS. OTHER DELEGATIONS RECOGNIZED THAT WHILE THE OECD WILL PLAY A KEY ROLE IN PRE-CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS, THEY FELT THAT THE GROUP B GENEVA REPS SHOULD DO MUCH OF THE BASIC WORK -- SUCH AS DEVELOPING PROPOSALS AND IDEAS WHICH COULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE OECD. GENEVA WORKING

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 11197 02 OF 02 201707Z  
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 11197

GROUPS, DESCRIBED IN REFTEL D, ARE NOW EXPECTED TO BEGIN FUNCTIONING IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE 18TH TDB. (COMMENT: WE BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT A MISSION OFFICER ATTEND ALL OECD MEETINGS TO PREPARE FOR UNCTAD V.)

5. OTHER PREPARATIONS FOR 18TH TDB - SECRETARIAT HAS INVITED GROUPS TO COMMENT ON A DRAFT PROPOSAL IT HAS PREPARED FOR ORGANIZATION OF WORK AT THE 18TH TDB. THE DRAFT, WHICH HAS BEEN SENT TO EB/IFD/ODF AND IO/IEP, SHOULD BE EXAMINED IN CONJUNCTION WITH PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA (TD/B/709) WHICH HAS BEEN SENT TO DEPARTMENT. SINCE THE DRAFT ORGANIZATION OF WORK WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE SECRETARIAT'S NEXT CONSULTATION MEETING

WITH REGIONAL GROUPS, AUGUST 4, IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF THE DEPARTMENT COULD PROVIDE US WITH ANY SUGGESTIONS OR COMMENTS IT HAS BY THAT DATE.

6. FRG REP REPORTED THAT GROUP B WILL BE ASKED TO PROVIDE CHAIRMAN FOR SESSIONAL COMMITTEE II OF TDB WHICH, IN ACCORDANCE WITH USUAL PRACTICE, WILL BE SET UP TO DISCUSS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 11197 02 OF 02 201707Z

TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN LDCS AND COMMUNIST STATES (EAST/SOUTH TRADE). HE WARNED THAT THE SOVIETS ARE EXPECTED IN THIS COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE THEIR CURRENT DRIVE TO DISCUSS EAST/WEST TRADE MATTERS IN UNCTAD. HE ALSO SAID THAT INDIVIDUAL LDCS HAVE EXPRESSED HOPE TO HIM THAT GROUP B COUNTRIES CAN HELP THE COMMITTEE TO FOCUS MORE EFFECTIVELY ON EAST/SOUTH TRADE BY GIVING STATEMENTS DESCRIBING INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL EXPERIENCES WITH TRIPARTITE COOPERATION PROJECTS.

7. COMMENT: WHILE OUR COLLEAGUES IN GROUP B WANT TO DEVELOP A COORDINATED STRATEGY FOR UNCTAD V, WHICH WILL PLACE US IN A POSITIVE--RATHER THAN REACTIVE--POSITION, NO ONE SEEMS TO HAVE A CLEAR IDEA OF HOW TO BEGIN TO DEVELOP SUCH A STRATEGY. IT IS, OF COURSE, DIFFICULT TO PREDICT WHAT WILL BE THE MAJOR ISSUES AT UNCTAD V AS LONG AS THE OUTCOME OF THE MTN AND THE COMMON FUND NEGOTIATIONS REMAIN IN DOUBT. PROGRESS -- OR LACK OF PROGRESS -- IN ONGOING EFFORTS TO CONCLUDE A TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY CODE, RULES AND PRINCIPLES ON RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES, AND A MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT CONVENTION WILL ALSO AFFECT THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE AND RESULTS OF UNCTAD V. IT WOULD, HOWEVER, BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE IF, AT THE 18TH TDB, WE COULD BEGIN TO FOCUS THE AGENDA ON CERTAIN TOPICS THAT WOULD PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR USEFUL DISCUSSIONS OR INITIATIVES WHICH WE COULD LATER DEVELOP. OTHERWISE, WE WILL AGAIN FIND OURSELVES IN THE POSITION OF SIMPLY REACTING TO G-77 AND UNCTAD SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS.  
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## Message Attributes

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